

IN THE CLAIMS

Please **cancel** claims 4-29, 34-61, 66-92, 97-122, and 126-180 without prejudice or disclaimer. Please **amend** claim 65 as indicated below.

1. (previously presented) A method for identifying a candidate compound as a suitable pro-drug, comprising:

- (a) providing the candidate compound having an esterified phosphonate group or an esterified carboxyl group;
- (b) contacting the candidate compound with an extract capable of catalyzing the hydrolysis of a carboxylic ester to produce a metabolite compound; and
- (c) identifying the candidate compound as a suitable pro-drug if the metabolite compound has a phosphonic acid group instead of the esterified phosphonate group of the candidate compound, or a carboxylic acid group instead of the esterified carboxyl group of the candidate compound.

2. (previously presented). The method of claim 1, wherein said extract is obtained from peripheral blood mononuclear cells.

3. (previously presented) A method for identifying a candidate compound as a suitable pro-drug, comprising:

- (a) providing the candidate compound having an esterified phosphonate group or an esterified carboxyl group;
- (b) contacting the candidate compound with an extract of peripheral blood mononuclear cells having carboxylic ester hydrolase activity to produce a metabolite compound;
- (c) identifying the candidate compound as a suitable pro-drug if the metabolite compound has a phosphonic acid group instead of the esterified phosphonate group of the candidate compound, or a carboxylic acid group instead of the esterified carboxyl group of the candidate compound.

4-29. (cancelled)

30. (previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein said contacting step comprises contacting the candidate compound with GS-7340 Ester Hydrolase *in vitro*.

31. (previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein said contacting step comprises contacting the candidate compound with GS-7340 Ester Hydrolase in cell culture.

32. (previously presented) The method of claim 31, wherein said contacting step comprises contacting the candidate compound with GS-7340 Ester Hydrolase in a culture of peripheral blood mononuclear cells.

33. (previously presented) A method for identifying a candidate compound as a suitable pro-drug, comprising:

- (a) providing the candidate compound having an esterified phosphonate group;
- (b) contacting the candidate compound with GS-7340 Ester Hydrolase to produce a metabolite compound;
- (c) identifying the candidate compound as a suitable pro-drug if the metabolite compound has a phosphonic acid group instead of the esterified phosphonate group of the candidate compound.

34-61. (cancelled)

62. (previously presented) The method of claim 33, wherein said contacting step comprises contacting the candidate compound with GS-7340 Ester Hydrolase *in vitro*.

63. (previously presented) The method of claim 33, wherein said contacting step comprises contacting the candidate compound with GS-7340 Ester Hydrolase in cell culture.

64. (previously presented) The method of claim 63, wherein said contacting step comprises contacting the candidate compound with GS-7340 Ester Hydrolase in a culture of peripheral blood mononuclear cells.

65. (currently amended) A method for identifying a candidate compound as a suitable pro-drug, comprising:

- (a) providing the candidate compound having an esterified carboxyl group;
- (b) contacting the candidate compound with GS-7340 Ester Hydrolase to produce a[[n]] metabolite compound;
- (c) identifying the candidate compound as a suitable pro-drug if the metabolite compound has a carboxylic acid group instead of the esterified carboxyl group of the candidate compound.

66-92. (cancelled)

93. (previously presented) The method of claim 65, wherein said contacting step comprises contacting the candidate compound with GS-7340 Ester Hydrolase *in vitro*.

94. (previously presented) The method of claim 65, wherein said contacting step comprises contacting the candidate compound with GS-7340 Ester Hydrolase in cell culture.

95. (previously presented) The method of claim 94, wherein said contacting step comprises contacting the candidate compound with GS-7340 Ester Hydrolase in a culture of peripheral blood mononuclear cells.

96. (previously presented) A method for identifying a candidate compound as a suitable pro-drug, comprising:

- (a) providing the candidate compound having an esterified phosphonate group or an esterified carboxyl group;

(b) contacting the candidate compound with an extract of peripheral blood mononuclear cells which has carboxylic ester hydrolase activity but does not cleave alpha-naphthyl acetate, to produce a metabolite compound;

(c) identifying the candidate compound as a suitable pro-drug if the metabolite compound has a phosphonic acid group instead of the esterified phosphonate group of the candidate compound, or a carboxylic acid group instead of the esterified carboxyl group of the candidate compound.

97-122. (cancelled)

123. (previously presented) The method of claim 96, wherein said contacting step comprises contacting the candidate compound with GS-7340 Ester Hydrolase *in vitro*.

124. (previously presented) The method of claim 96, wherein said contacting step comprises contacting the candidate compound with GS-7340 Ester Hydrolase in cell culture.

125. (previously presented) The method of claim 124, wherein said contacting step comprises contacting the candidate compound with GS-7340 Ester Hydrolase in a culture of peripheral blood mononuclear cells.

126-180. (cancelled)